

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 HEW-08 RSR-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 SCSE-00

SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04 CU-04 NIC-01 EUR-25 SS-15 NSC-10

/176 W

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R 061500 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4091

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1296

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP AND FOR AGATT

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR HO

SUBJECT: DROUGHT PROBLEM

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1265

SUMMARY: BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL DISTRICT, ING. ALVARADO, IT APPEARS CURRENT CRITICAL WATER SUPPLY SITUATION IN TEGUCIGALPA WILL CONTINUE FOR NEXT SEVERAL YEARS EVEN IF DROUGHT IS BROKEN. END SUMMARY

1. APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF SEVERE DROUGHT, WATER AVAILABILITY FOR TEGUCIGALPA HAS DROPPED TO 1/3 NORMAL. CITY ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO DRILL 3 WELLS TO SUPPLY PUBLIC FACILITIES AND NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (SANAA) APPARENTLY PLANS TO DRILL ADDITIONAL 12 WELLS TO AUGMENT OVERALL CITY SUPPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE NO POSSIBILITIES
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OF ANY NEW MAJOR WATER PROJECTS WHICH COULD INCREASE CITY
WATER SUPPLY BEFORE 5 OR 6 YEARS.

2. THE GOH, AS WELL AS SANAA AND CENTRAL DISTRICT, DO
NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY RATIONAL COORDINATED PLAN FOR
MEETING PRESENT WATER SUPPLY SITUATION. ENBASSY/ MISSION
HAVE CAREFULLY NOT VOLUNTEERED ANY OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE
PENDING OFFICIAL GOH REQUESTS AND RATIONAL PLAN TO MEET
EMERGENCY. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT IF WELL DRILLING
PROGRAM GOES THROUGH, GOH COULD PRESENT REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF SUBMERSIBLE WATER PUMPS TO
INSTALL IN THESE WELLS.

3. WATER SITUATION IN OUTLYING VILLAGES ALSO EXTREMELY
CRITICAL. DROUGHT SITUATION HAS FORCED VILLAGERS TO MOVE
INTO TEGUCIGALPA URBAN AREA WITH RESULTING PROBLEMS OF
URBAN LAND INVASIONS ON ANY UNUTILIZED LAND AVAILABLE.
THIS MOVEMENT APPARENTLY ALSO BEING ENCOURAGED AND STIMULATED
BY LEFTIST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN ORDER TO CREATE PROBLEMS
FOR GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT: USG SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BE FORTHCOMING AS
POSSIBLE IF GOH CENTRAL DISTRICT OR SANAA REQUESTS
DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR RATIONAL EMERGENCY WATER PLAN
FOR TEGUCIGALPA URBAN AREA AS WELL AS FOR OUTLYING
DISTRICTS.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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